



**Office of the Attorney General
Paul G. Summers**

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Sharon Curtis-Flair

(615) 741-5860

**TENNESSEE AND OTHER STATES DISTRIBUTE \$24 MILLION IN
ANTITRUST SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Consumers Compensated for Increased Drug Costs

Attorney General Paul G. Summers today announced today the distribution of more than \$24 million in antitrust settlement funds to consumers that purchased Cardizem CD, a prescription heart medication.

Some 2,394 Tennesseans will receive an estimated total of \$709,933 to compensate for overpayment for Cardizem CD and its generic equivalents between 1998 and 2003. Nationwide, the distribution will compensate more than 76,000 individual consumers. The states' plan to distribute money to consumers was approved by United States District Court Judge Nancy Edmunds on May 31, 2005, after the United States Supreme Court refused on May 23, 2005, to review judicial approval of the settlement.

"We are pleased this money will finally be released to those consumers who were overcharged for medication they needed," General Summers said.

A distribution to third party purchasers (the insurance companies that pay for part of all of the insured person's medications) of the drug will begin later this year. Another \$4.5 million will be distributed among the states to reimburse some government purchasers, including Medicaid for damages.

The agreement by the states began in 2003 with two pharmaceutical companies, Aventis and Andrx. The complaint alleged Hoechst, a pharmaceutical company acquired by Aventis in 2000, paid Andrx not to market a generic version of Cardizem CD. The delay in the availability of the generic form of Cardizem CD meant that consumers, medical insurance companies and the government had to purchase the higher priced brand name version of the drug for at least an extra year. Those affected were consumers who bought the drug between January, 1998 through January, 2003.

Further details are available on the settlement administration's website, <http://www.cardizemsettlement.com>.